Herald and News

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Along NATURE'S TRAIL with Ken McLeod

We have been wandering about through a maze of paths of population, land areas, food production, and so perhaps we might wander off a moment upon a common subject which is prominent in every discussion of food production—the meat eaters and non meat eaters. When we use the term "meat and meat products" in a statistical discussion the common meaning of the term is applied to beef, mutton, pork and the packing house products derived from cattle, sheep and hogs.

Poultry and fish are generally spoken of as being separate items and are usually classified by themselves. When it is stated that the people of a nation are not meat eaters, it does not follow that they may not consume animal products. Thus, certain people of India while refusing to eat red meat, subsist upon a lacto-vegetable diet. The Chinese produce and eat quantities of poultry and eggs as well as pork, and the Japanese have for their food base a rice-fish diet.

There is no other food upon which the people of the world live so exclusively as with rice.

The people of the world may, therefore, be divided for most practical discussions into the group of "meat eaters" and the group of "non-meat eaters." Meat eaters may be defined as those people who obtain a material quantity of their sustenance from the carcasses of cattle, sheep or swine and to a lesser extent from the carcasses of goats, horses, asses or mules.

The total consumption of dressed meat, meat products and the extra edible parts of meat animals at the beginning of the Twentieth Century was estimated to be 60 billion pounds. This product was consumed among 600 million people. Thus, about one-third the people of the world fall under the classification of being meat-eaters, and, two-thirds the people of the world are non-meat eaters.

There are 22 countries in which the consumption of meat and meat products had at this period been under study. The amount consumed annually varied from less than 50 pounds of meat in such countries as Portugal, Spain and Italy, to more than 200 pounds in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The average consumption of the meat eating countries was about 93 pounds. If the extra edible parts are included the total would have been about 100 pounds. Fish, eggs and poultry and butter are not included.

While the so-called "meat abstainers" consume fish, fowl and eggs in considerable quantities it is probably correct to say that one half the population of the world subsists almost exclusively upon plants.

The people of the United States are ranked fourth in their consumption of meat but the per capita volume has been decreasing over the years as we turn from a rural to an urban economy a fact which leads those who raise beef animals into a vigorous advertising campaign to stimulate the eating of beef. It is of interest to note that historically even among the western nations the eating of meat was greatly restricted among all classes save the most favored until most recent times. The period from 1875 to 1915 may not improperly be called the age of meat, particularly as it applies to western Europe. It took World War I to make radical changes in the human diet of these nations.

Before the introduction of steam transportation, it is noted that with but minor exceptions the population of western Europe had to depend largely upon the meat of animals which could be reared within driving distance of the larger areas of population. Before the days of railroads and refrigeration the driving of turkeys and geese to market was a regular business in England. McCullogh states that, "So late as 1763, the slaughter of bullocks for the supply of public markets was a thing wholly unknown even in Glasgow though the city had a population of 30,000."

Great Britain which now imports about 60 per cent of all meat and meat products that entered international trade depended almost wholly upon home grown meats up to 1880. During the previous century, England exported meat. There being some commerce in salted meats thus cattle were driven from the county of Durham in Northern England to London, slaughtered, salted and placed upon sailing ships plying to the Orient. It was this trade which was largely instrumental in increasing the Shorthorn cattle when a demand for cattle for beef displaced the need of cattle for work purposes. The Shorthorn became the leading breed in England.

Underlying the whole problem of meat and its use as a human food there is of course the problem of the science of dietetics with which We are not concerned here, however, in the broader aspect of food supply there is the economic problem. Since there is a far greater amount of energy in the food consumed by domestic animals than in the product created by the animals for human consumption, it is obvious that as populations increase in density, there will be, as there has been in the past, a tendency for human beings to consume certain portions of food stuffs now fed to domestic animals. As population density continues to increase this factor of the efficient use of agricultural crops will prevail and on this basis it is probable that the raising of beef will decline while the dairy cow will increase since the dairy cow is the most efficient of farm animals in the production of human food (milk and milk products).

JAMES MARLOW

By DON WHITEHEAD

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time: the present.

Place: a political campaign classroom.

Event: a gathering of candidspeechmaking in preparation for the campaign next year. The teacher calls the class to order.

Teacher: "Gentlemen, we are gathered here to discuss the time-tried and time-tested phrases—all sound as a dollar — which may at first seem old fashioned, but which we find by scientific means to be as effective in these days of television as they were in days long past.

"Now, I shall call on Mr. Man Who to come to the platform. He will speak as though you were an audience of voters—and I shall correct him and give him pointers where necessary for the benefit of all. Mr. Who."

Mr. A. Man Who arises and comes to the platform. He clears his throat, adjusts his glasses, assumes a confidential air, and begins:

"Ladies and gentlemen. (pause) Everyone who has known me knows that I never have shirked a clarion call to duty. You can depend on that as surely as you can depend on the sun rising in the East and setting in the West. And it makes me humble.

"As my dear father used to say when he bounced me on his knee: 'The race goes to the strong, son.' But I also took to heart the words of my sainted mother who told me every night after I said my prayers and she had tucked me in bed: 'Always remember, son, the meek shall inherit the earth.'

"If you elect me, I promise I will hew to the line—and you know my opponent can't even plow a straight furrow! (laughter)

"I promise you, my friends, that I'll let the chips fall where they may. I'll treat friend and foe alike, without . . . without . . ."

Teacher (prompting): "Without fear or favor."

Mr. Who: "Thank you. (resuming) With your help I'll go down the middle of the road and leave no stone unturned to give you the kind of government you expect and the kind of government every American citizen . . .

Teacher (sharply): "Please, Mr. Who! Must we go over this again? It's 'every red-blooded, 100 per cent American.'"

Mr. Who: ". . That every red-blooded, 100 per cent American so richly deserves and which you will receive from me because I will regard it as a sacred trust.

"I have known poverty, friends. I know the value of a dollar and I know that a penny saved is a penny earned. I know that the salt of the earth is the horny-handed son of toil. But his rough, gruff ways must be softened by the tender, loving gentleness of the wife and mother who keeps the home fires burning.

"And I say again, if elected I shall keep my shoulder to the wheel and march side by side with you to a better government. I thank you." (loud applause)

Teacher: "Thank you, Mr. A. Man Who! That truly was inspirational. And next week we shall hear a discussion: 'Keep your ear to the ground and your eye on the ball—but watch the straws in the wind.'

"Goodnight!"

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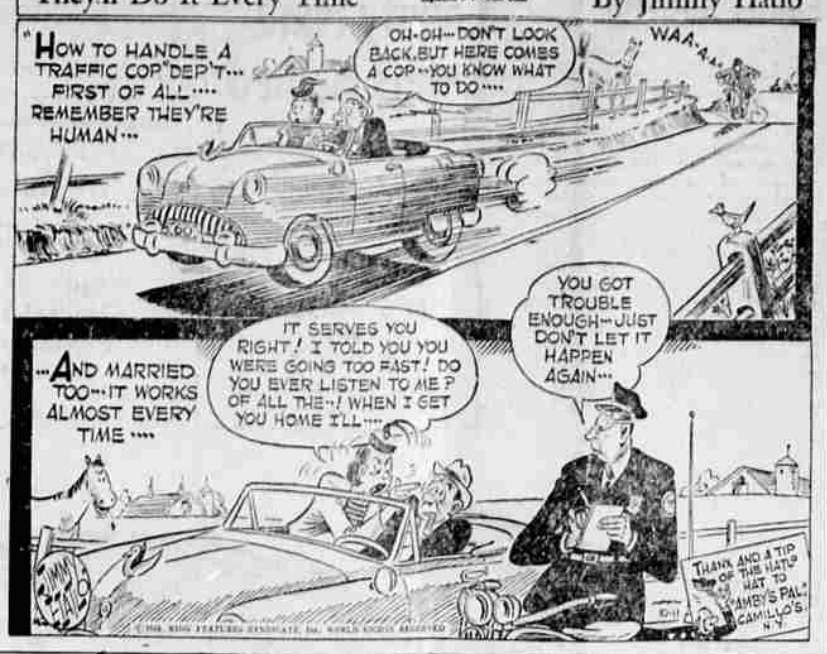

SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—Tight money is slowing down some phases of the business boom. Some of those being pinched, such as home builders are complaining.

But in retail sales the effect isn't yet apparent. Consumer credit continues its steady rise and installment debt stands at record levels.

Businessmen are paying the most for loans from New York banks since September 1953. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reports average rates here rose sharply in the first half of September to 3.48 per cent. This results from a firmer money policy of the Federal Reserve System.

As interest rates rise, the prices of U.S. Government securities fall. Banks often sell such securities to get money for loans to business. But if they sell them now they must take a loss, and that makes them look twice at a businessman's application for a loan.

The rapid rise of home mortgages to record levels caused the government to tighten up a little on mortgage terms. Builders say the tighter credit is now taking hold.

Home building contract volume was cut back in September to a point 6 per cent below the total for September 1954, F. W. Dodge Corp. construction specialists, report today. It was the first time since December 1953 that their monthly figures failed to show a gain over the corresponding month of the year before.

There's usually a lag of one to two months between contract awards and the start of construction. The building agency looks for home starts to taper off the rest of this year.

The government apparently is attaining its objective of an "inflation free" level of new home building of between 1,200,000 and 1,300,000 new homes a year, Norman Strunk, executive vice president of the U. S. Savings and Loan League, says today. But he thinks the government will move swiftly if home construction drops very far, and we may "have a switch back to easier money by early next year."

Many builders, however, are complaining about the shortage of mortgage money. They say plans for future home building are being shelved in some cities.

Dr. Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, expresses general satisfaction with the way credit restraints have worked out so far.

Typhoon Glances At Tokyo, Leaves

TOKYO (AP)—A weakening typhoon sideswiped Tokyo today, delivering a glancing blow instead of the expected head-on smash, then curled out to sea.

The huge metropolitan area, the world's most densely populated, had been braced for a full-scale blast.

Instead, the center of the storm skidded by 70 miles east of Tokyo, just off the Pacific Coast. Its center winds were slowing to 85 miles an hour as the storm blew itself toward extinction.

Tokyo still was hurt by the storm. Streets were sprayed with shattered window glass, houses were flooded and electric power failed.

Landslides cut roads and rail lines from Tokyo and big waves sank at least two fishing boats with eight crewmen.

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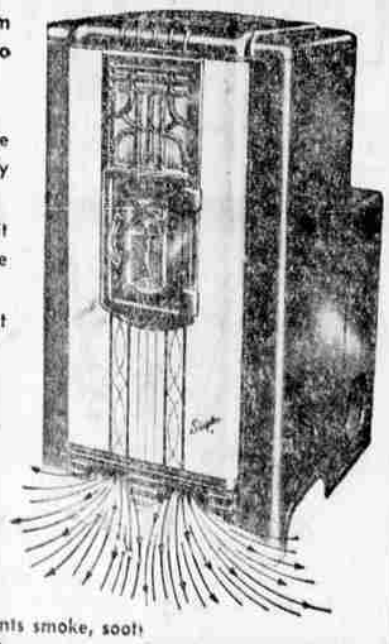

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THOMAS W. PALMER, U.S. Air Force airman third class, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Palmer, 1951 Ogden Avenue, is currently serving as a jet engine mechanic at the U.S. Air Force Base, Burtonwood, England.

Hall Predicts GOP Victory

NEW YORK (AP)—Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall says that even if President Eisenhower does not run in 1956, the GOP will win with the help of "Ike's philosophy, personality and the record of his administration."

And if the President should decide to seek re-election, Hall said yesterday, he will "sweep the country just as he did four years ago."

Hall told a "Pulse of the Nation" luncheon, given by New York's National Republican Club, that only the President could say whether he will seek re-election. "We must leave that decision entirely to the President himself," Hall said.

He said he had no idea when Eisenhower would announce his plans, but he thought the President's heart attack might prompt an earlier announcement than would normally be expected.

In foreign affairs, Hall said, the President has brought in a "bold and dynamic" policy to replace "indecision and fumbling."

On the domestic scene, he said, "more Americans are working at more jobs, making more money with more take-home pay and more value to their dollar to buy more good things of life than ever in our history."

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Dear Sarah, You have been in your grave two years. You never heard of me in your life, and I never heard of you until an hour ago. I am taking this way of letting the world know what a wonderful wife you were.

I was late to work, and hailed a cab driven by your husband, Max. It was a crisp clear autumn morning, the kind that makes a music in your veins.

"It's a fine day," I said to Max, "but I guess in the cab business you make more money on rainy days."

"All days are good days," Max said. "I don't worry about the money. I take it as it comes, and I don't cry if less comes in one day than another.

"People let trifles pile up and wear them down. I don't. I've been hacking 23 years, mostly at night. I can remember during the depression when I came home with only 40 cents after 12 hours at the wheel.

"Some of my friends in business for themselves fret now if they don't make more money every day. I can remember the days when I used to lend them a few cans of food to keep them going, and I think they're crazy. 'Stay healthy,' I tell them, 'and you have nothing left to worry about.'"

I asked Max if he wouldn't like to own his own business, and he answered:

"In 1939 I could have bought my own cab for $200, and I didn't have it. Today it would take $14,000, and I don't have that. But I don't worry."

Then he told me about the only time in his life money meant anything to him.

He told about meeting and marrying you 19 years ago. He told about the first years when all you often had to eat was bread and milk and coffee, and how cheerful you were. He told about the kids coming and how well you made out with little money, and how you never complained over the long years he worked at night and you were alone.

"She had happiness in her," he said more than once.

Max told me how thriftily you put by the dollars and pennies, until you both had a nest egg of $5,000 when you fell ill of cancer nearly three years ago.

He told how the nest egg dribbled away in efforts to cure you—specialists, nurses, treatments—and how you fought against spending it. He told how he finally quit work and took care of you himself, because he couldn't bear to leave you alone. He told how resigned you were.

"She wanted to stay on her feet—she wouldn't go to bed." Max said. "And I couldn't stand to see her in pain. But she stayed on her feet until the last two weeks.

"She taught me to cook and take care of the house."

Max didn't want to talk about your death. In the two years since you left he hasn't forgotten you.

"A cab driver meets many lonely women," he said. "But they don't interest me. You know the reason they're so lonely? It's because they have loneliness in them.

"My wife wasn't that way at all. She always had happiness in her."

Max then told me about your two daughters. He is very proud of them.

"The older girl is 17," he said. "She won't get to go to college. The nest egg was for that. But she didn't want to go to college very much. She soon will graduate from business school and she is going steady with a fine boy. Our other girl is 15 and doing well in school. They're both good girls."

You yourself are in Max's thoughts often while he's driving.

"It makes me feel bad," he remarked, "when couples get in my car and start quarreling. One says, 'I hate you,' and the other says, 'I wish you'd drop dead.' Sometimes I turn around and tell them, 'Don't talk like that. You don't know what you really have, just being together. Stay healthy.'"

When I got out of the cab I could see Max felt better himself, just from reliving out loud his memories of his life with you. He loves to talk about you—but happily, not sadly, and I think that would please you.

"Stay healthy!" he called back, and drove away smiling, still thinking of you.

Sincerely,
HAL BOYLE

CONCERT

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. (UP)—Mount Vernon almost missed a concert by the 11th Airborne Division Band from Ft. Campbell, Ky., because the musical paratroopers missed Mount Vernon.

The band arrived late because it had been confused and had gone first to Mount Vernon, Ill.

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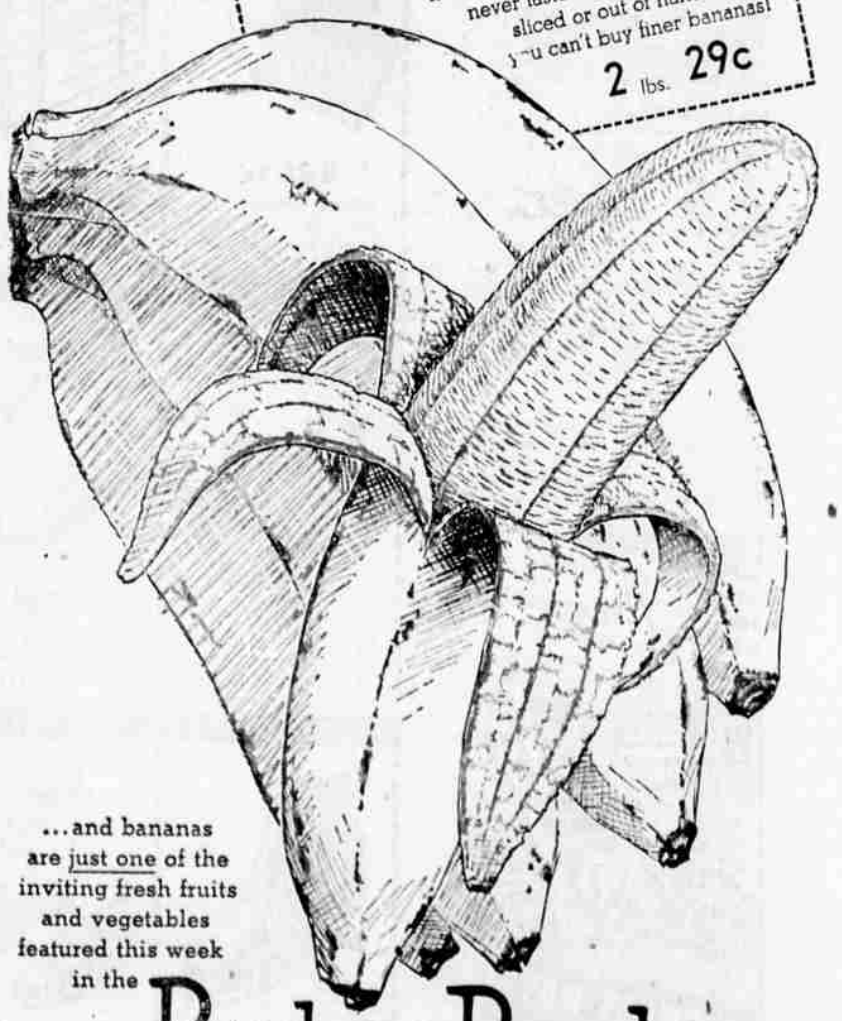

...and bananas are just one of the inviting fresh fruits and vegetables featured this week in the Produce Parade at Safeway

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